(c) whether Government have a plan to induct this aircraft into the fleet of Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the date by when the proposal is likely to be materialized;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether Government have explored overseas markets for export of this aircraft ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) First prototype of 'SARAS' (VT-XSD) aircraft built by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) was taken out of the hangars of NAL on 4-2-2003 for the purpose of static display only. SARAS is a 14-seater multi role light transport aircraft.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines has no plans to induct this type of aircraft in its fleet since commercial production has not commenced.

(f) Export potential of the aircraft has not yet been explored.

Construction of Helipads in States

4651. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct helipads in the States with the cooperation of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government consider to implement any airline projects with the help of State Governments to improve tourism facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Replacement of IA's Upholstery

4652. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether faded upholstery of Indian Airlines fleet is proposed to be changed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set for completion of the job ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK.) : (a) to (c) The upholstery (Seat covers. Galley curtains, Carpets) is maintained and replaced on a regular basis for better cabin ambience as per schedule defined for different types of aircraft in the Indian Airlines fleet.

During inspection, if any seat cover or curtain is found faded or worn out, the same is replaced, during the night stop of an aircraft.

New look of IA fleet

4653. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the upgradation and renovation plan of the Indian Airlines *vis-a-vis* competition from foreign and domestic carriers;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the target for completion of the new look of IA fleet ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its 61st meeting held on 27th March, 2002 approved the proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft comprising A-319, A-320 and A-321 from Airbus Industries during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 at a net cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. The Project Report has been submitted by Indian Airlines to Government.

The new aircraft are envisaged to replace the entire fleet of A-300 and B-737 aircraft, in a phased manner, by March, 2005 and will also cater to the annual traffic growth, of about 5% during the five-year period starting 2003-04.

No firm target date for completion of the acquisition process can be indicated at this stage, since the extant procedures for consideration of public investment proposals will have to be followed.

Development of Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports

4654. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1369 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2002 and state :—

(a) whether it is also a fact that schemes like face-lifting of Vizag Airport were sanctioned for Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports also but have not taken off; and